

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 023676

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEEN,JR.:AVM

APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

EA/PHL - ECHULEN

S/S - PSHANKLE

----- 121272

P 010204Z PEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 023676

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: REORGANIZATION OF PACIFIC AIR FORCES

REFS: A) MANILA 1348; B) 764

FOR SULLIVAN FROM HABIB

1. BETWEEN RECEIPT OF REFS A AND B, WE SCROUNGED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON USAF PLANNING FOR PACIFIC COMMAND STRUCTURE WHICH I HAD INTENDED TO PASS ALONG TO YOU IN MANILA. WE WILL TRY TO GET A BETTER READING OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND WILL IN ANY EVENT DO OUR BEST TO ENSURE THAT YOUR VIEWS ARE SOLICITED BEFORE DEFENSE MAKES A DECISION.

2. ISA IS QUITE SURE THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER WILL NOT AGREE TO A NEW SOUTHWEST PACIFIC COMMAND OF THE KIND DESCRIBED TO YOU BY JONES. WITH THE DIS-ESTABLISHMENT OF PACAF, ONE OR POSSIBLY TWO CONTINGENCY COMMANDS MAY BE

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ESTABLISHED IN THE PACIFIC AREA AS PAPER ORGANIZATIONS WHICH COULD BE ACTIVATED IN AN EMERGENCY. WE SEE NO PARTICULAR PROBLEM WITH THIS, AND ASSUME FROM YOUR COMMENTS TO JONES THAT YOU DON'T EITHER.

3. JONES WOULD NOT ONLY LIKE TO CONSOLIDATE THE COMMAND OF THE 7TH AND 13TH AIR FORCES UNDER A FOUR-STAR GENERAL AT CLARK BUT ALSO WANTS TO INCLUDE THE 5TH AIR FORCE FROM JAPAN. ISA CONSIDERS THE THAI/PHILIPPINE COMBINATION LOGICAL AND SUSPECTS THAT A FOUR-STAR COMMANDER AT CLARK MAY BE INEVITABLE BECAUSE OF SERVICE INTEREST IN PLACING WILSON. HOWEVER, THEY AND, AT LEAST TO SOME EXTENT, JCS OPPOSE PLACING THE 5TH AIR FORCE UNDER CLARK. WE HAVE INDICATED THAT WE WOULD HAVE GREAT RESERVATIONS ABOUT SUCH A MOVE FOR BOTH JAPANESE AND PHILIPPINE REASONS. WE HAVE ALSO TOLD ISA THAT WE CONSIDER A FOUR-STAR AT CLARK QUESTIONABLE BUT WE HAVE NOT WEIGHED IN STRONGLY.

4. IN ADDITION TO OUR CONVERSATION WITH ISA, WE HAVE GOTTEN A FURTHER EXPOSITION OF WHAT JONES HAS IN MIND FROM A CONVERSATION WHICH HE HAD WITH ZURHELLEN (BEING REPORTED TO YOU BY LETTER). IN SUM (A) WE THINK IT LIKELY THAT THE 7TH AND 13TH AIR FORCES MAY BE COMBINED AT CLARK UNDER A FOUR-STAR GENERAL; AND (B) WE THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT THE 5TH AIR FORCE COMMAND WILL BE MOVED AND WE WILL OPPOSE SUCH A PROPOSAL. IF YOU WANT ME TO TAKE A MORE NEGATIVE VIEW ON THE PRICKLY MATTER OF STARS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. KISSINGER

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* STADIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

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